

Preliminary Amendment for Divisional under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 of Application Serial No. 09/363,555 filed July 29, 1999

according to the invention and the interrelationships between the number of carbon atoms in R, the relative amounts of OE and OP and the biodegradability of the final product can be readily determined by one of ordinary skill in the art.—

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-15.

Add the following claims:

16. (New) A method of stabilizing an emulsion polymer composition comprising adding to an emulsion polymerization composition an emulsion-stabilizing quantity of a branched polymeric base-catalyzed reaction product of: A) at least one epihalohydrin or trihaloalkane and B) at least one alkoxylated alcohol, wherein the mole ratio of component A) to component B) is from about 0.60:1 to about 2:1.
17. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is added prior to carrying out the emulsion polymerization.
18. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is added subsequent to carrying out emulsion polymerization with the emulsion polymer composition.
19. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.8:1 to about 2:1.
20. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5.0% by weight, based on solids.

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21. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein component A) is an epihalohydrin.
22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the epihalohydrin is epichlorohydrin.
23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the mole ratio of component A) to component B) is from about 0.8:1 to about 2:1.
24. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the emulsion polymer composition is a vinyl acrylic emulsion polymer composition.
25. (New) The method of claim 16 wherein the emulsion polymer composition also contains at least one other emulsifier.
26. (New) A method of stabilizing an emulsion polymer composition comprising adding to an emulsion polymerization composition an emulsion-stabilizing quantity of a branched polymeric base-catalyzed reaction product of:
- A) at least one compound of formula I



wherein each X group is a halogen atom or one X group is a halogen atom and two X groups represent an epoxy oxygen atom, which is attached to two adjacent carbon atoms in the R¹ group to form an epoxy group, and R¹ is an alkanetriyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms; and

- B) at least one compound of the formula II



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wherein R is a saturated or unsaturated organic group having from 3 to 22 carbon atoms, n is a number of from 1 to 50, m is a number from 0 to 10, EO represents an ethyleneoxy group, and OP represents a propyleneoxy group.

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27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein in said reaction product, R in component B) is an alkyl group.
 28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein R is an alkyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms.
 29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein the alkyl group contains from 8 to 10 carbon atoms.
 30. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein in said reaction product, n in component B) is a number of from 3 to about 50 and m is zero.
 31. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the degree of polymerization of said reaction product is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.
 32. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein component A) is an epihalohydrin, R in component B) is an alkyl group, n is a number of from 3 to about 50, and m is zero.
 33. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the degree of polymerization of said reaction product is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.